

Alfred Voigt, a truly remarkable Renaissance man who passed away May 13, 2011.

Al Voigt was a scientist who held several patents, an artist, a community leader, a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Judith, a caring and inspiring father to his children, Che and Shanta, and doting grandfather to Logan Allan and Katherine Annabelle.

Al founded a series of aerospace engineering firms in Sonoma County that contributed to some of our most important national defense projects. His technical innovations in tactical missile and surveillance systems led to the development and success of the Stinger missile and Predator drone. More than 350 people in Sonoma County have high paying, technical engineering and manufacturing jobs because of these projects.

But Al's passions were much more extensive. He and his wife founded the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, which has placed more than two dozen sculptures, either pieces owned by the foundation or on loan by collaborative artists, in publically accessible places in Sonoma County.

He also won furniture design awards with his abstract chairs and his aerodynamic tricycles have set world speed records.

Mr. Speaker, Al Voigt was a prodigious thinker who never rested on his laurels. He was always looking ahead for the next idea. His fundamental skill was analyzing a problem and finding the solution, whether it was in national defense, art, or a functional piece of furniture. It is therefore appropriate that we honor him at this time for his service to our country and to his community.

HONORING THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I realize education is essential for every child in our nation. Education is the great equalizer and with a sound education any child can live the American Dream.

As a former teacher in Broward County, Florida, I am proud to congratulate Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 11 high schools in their county receiving top national ranking in the Washington Post.

The Washington Post named 11 Broward County high schools in its High School Challenge list of top 1,900 public high schools in the nation. The schools were Fort Lauderdale (109), Marjory Stoneman Douglas (238), Nova (285), Miramar (355), Cooper City (376), Stranahan (431), J.P. Taravella (507), Flanagan (554), Plantation (739), Coral Springs Charter (983) and Pembroke Pines Charter (1,108) high schools join an elite group of public high schools nationwide. The Washington Post list represents only seven percent of schools across the United States.

Fort Lauderdale High School placed top among Broward high schools, with a national ranking of 109 and a state ranking of 24. According to the Washington Post, the Challenge Index's formula is to divide the number of Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or other college-level tests a school gave in 2010 by the number of graduating seniors.

The Washington Post advises that while the index is not a measure of the overall quality of the school, the rating can reveal the level of a high school's commitment to preparing average students for college. With a few exceptions, public schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1.000, meaning they had as many Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests in 2010 as they had graduates, are noted on the national list.

The Broward County Public School System is the nation's sixth largest public school system and the largest fully accredited district with over 234,600 students in more than 230 schools and education centers. The Broward County Public School System is committed to giving all students access to a college-ready, job-ready curriculum that meets rigorous expectations which prepares students for post-secondary options and also ensures that students are able to be successful and complete post-secondary schooling once they begin.

To ensure student's can succeed in the 21st century, I will always focus in Congress on what's best for students, parents, teachers, and communities. This means helping children achieve their full and unique potential by equipping them with the tools and knowledge to succeed in the 21st century workforce. I believe the Federal Government must restore local control, empower parents, let teachers teach, and protect taxpayers. These principles should guide our efforts to reform federal education policy and protect the rights and responsibilities of states and local communities when it comes to educating the next generation.

CONGRATULATING FRANK GULLUNI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frank Gulluni on being honored with the Tom Ahlers Systems Building Award presented by the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals on May 17, 2011.

For 49 years, Frank has played a key role in the workforce development and educational community, touching the lives of countless students. In his position at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield, Connecticut, he has been a leading force in preparing and training students for careers in our manufacturing sector. And, using his unique experience on the front lines of education, he has been a driver in our community towards finding unique ways to connect the needs of our manufacturing sector with the skills of our students.

Since 2007, I have been proud to work with Frank in advancing his goals of investing in our nation's manufacturing capabilities, helping those who have lost their jobs re-train for new careers, and lay the ground work for a workforce highly skilled in advanced manufacturing of alternate energy technologies and medical devices.

With his leadership guiding the way, Frank and I worked to successfully secure critical funding to expand Asnuntuck's Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC). Thanks to this initiative, new equipment and training services

were developed to ensure that the MTC continues to keep pace with the emerging needs of his students and the manufacturing skills they need to fill the jobs of today—and tomorrow.

I have been so impressed and excited with Frank's results. Thanks in large part to Frank's efforts, Asnuntuck Community College has secured a 90% job placement rate for its students. When I visited the MTC last November, I heard first-hand from the students that the newly expanded center allow the program to continue to grow and expand to allow more services to students enrolled both at the college and those in local K-12 schools that partner with Asnuntuck. I also heard graduates of the program are found to be earning 40% more than their counterparts in all other industries.

Mr. Speaker, simply put Frank is someone who "gets it." When so many simply lament the decline of American manufacturing and the skills mismatch between the training of current workers and the needs of industry, Frank has taken action. He is a passionate believer in manufacturing and education. He truly understands the unique struggles of our laid off and dislocated workers as they seek to transition to new careers. He has built the kinds of partnerships with industries that has ensured that his students on to rewarding and meaningful careers in furthering our manufacturing sector. And, Frank has been a true leader in underscoring the unique value that our community colleges play in training the workforce of the future that will be the backbone of our nation's economy.

Connecticut, New England, and our nation are no doubt better off thanks to Frank's tireless work. For that, I urge all my colleagues to join me in honoring Frank for winning the Tom Ahlers Systems Building Award.

HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBINS AFB

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing a very happy 70th birthday to the Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center and Robins Air Force Base. This is an appropriate occasion to reflect and celebrate their proud history and heritage.

From the United States' entry into World War II to today's conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, the men and women of Warner-Robins ALC and Robins AFB have been an essential ingredient in our U.S. Air Force's ability to provide airpower for freedom around the globe.

One constant theme these past seventy years has been that the men and women of Team Robins have been most ready when the nation has been least ready. In 1948-1949, Robins' repair and supply personnel played a critical role in the Berlin Airlift. In 1950, workers at the center literally unwrapped and refurbished hundreds of "cocooned" Boeing B-29 Superfortresses. Understaffed and working around the clock, they made sure that United Nations forces in the Far East had the necessary tools to fight the North Korean invaders. And in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War,